

a main scanning unit configured to drive the dot-recording head and/or the print medium to perform main scanning;

a head driver configured to drive at least some of the dot-forming elements to form dots during the main scanning;

a platen configured to extend in the main scanning direction and to be disposed opposite the dot-forming elements at least along part of a main scan path, and the platen being configured to support the print medium at a position opposite the dot-recording head;

a sub-scanning unit configured to move the print medium to perform sub-scanning in between the main scans; and

a controller configured to control the dot recording device, wherein the platen has a slot extending in the main scanning direction, a width of the slot in the sub-scanning direction corresponding to a specific sub-scanning range on a surface of the dot recording head including not entirety but part of the plurality of dot-forming elements.

2. (Amended) A dot-recording device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the specific sub-scanning range includes at least one of two end ranges in the sub-scanning at opposite ends of the dot-recording head, each end range including at least one dot-forming element, and wherein the controller has:

(a) a first recording mode to effect printing near an edge of the printing medium, in the first recording mode the controller performing edge printing by ejecting ink droplets from at least some of the dot-forming elements disposed opposite the slot when the print medium is supported on the platen, and the edge of the print medium is disposed above the slot, and

(b) a second recording mode to effect printing in an intermediate portion of the print medium, a maximum sub-scan feed amount in the second recording mode being greater than a maximum sub-scan feed amount in the first recording mode.

19. (Amended) A dot-recording method using a dot-recording device for recording ink dots on a surface of a print medium, dot recording device including a dot-recording head having a plurality of dot-forming elements for ejecting ink droplets, the method comprising the steps of:

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(A) providing a platen configured to extend in the main scanning direction and to be disposed opposite the dot-forming elements at least along part of a main scan path, the platen being configured to support the print medium at a position opposite the dot-recording head, and that has a slot extending in a main scanning direction, a width of the slot in a sub-scanning direction corresponding to a specific sub-scanning range on a surface of the dot recording head including not entirety but part of the plurality of dot-forming elements, and

(B) printing images along the edges whereby ink droplets are ejected from at least some of the dot-forming elements disposed at positions opposite the slot when a front or rear edge of the print medium is disposed above the slot opening, and dots are formed on the print medium.

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33. (Amended) A print control device for generating print data to be sent to a dot-recording unit that records ink dots on a surface of a print medium, the dot recording unit including a dot-recording head having a plurality of dot-forming elements for ejecting ink droplets, the dot-recording unit comprising a main scanning unit configured to drive the dot-recording head and/or the print medium to perform main scanning; a head driver configured to drive at least some of the dot-forming elements to form dots during the main scanning; a platen configured to extend in the main scanning direction and to be disposed opposite the dot-forming elements at least along part of a main scan path, and the platen being configured to support the print medium at a position opposite the dot-recording head; a sub-scanning unit configured to move the print medium to perform sub-scanning sub-scanning in between the main scans; and a controller configured to control the print control device, the platen comprises a slot extending in the main scanning direction, a width of the slot in the sub-scanning direction corresponding to a specific sub-scanning range on a surface of the dot recording head including not entirety but part of the plurality of dot-forming elements, the print control device comprising:

an image data generator for generating image data for an area outside the print medium beyond the edge on which the edge printing is performed.

34. (Amended) A computer program product for recording ink dots on a surface of a print medium using a computer, the computer equipped with a dot-recording device for recording ink dots on the surface of a print medium with the aid of a dot-recording head provided with a plurality of dot-forming elements for ejecting ink droplets, wherein the dot-recording device comprises a platen configured to extend in the main scanning direction and to be disposed opposite the dot-forming elements at least along part of a main scan path, the platen being configured to support the print medium at a position opposite the dot-recording head, and being